

Introduced by Senator Galgiani

(Coauthors: Senators Hall, Hertzberg, Huff, and Wieckowski)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baker, Chávez, and Dodd)

May 5, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 59—Relative to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 59, as introduced, Galgiani. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease awareness.

This measure would encourage the State Department of Health Care Services, the State Department of Public Health, and other state entities to partner with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) stakeholders to improve education regarding COPD in the course of implementing the statewide strategic plan.

This measure would also designate November 2015 as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in California and encourage public officials and the citizens of California to increase awareness of the symptoms of, and the methods of preventing, COPD.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD),
2 also known as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the third
3 leading cause of death in the United States, claiming the lives of
4 over 138,000 Americans in 2010; and

5 WHEREAS, This is the 12th consecutive year in which women
6 have exceeded men in the number of deaths attributable to COPD.
7 In 2011, more than 72,000 women died compared to over 65,000
8 men; and

1 WHEREAS, American women are about twice as likely to be
2 diagnosed with chronic bronchitis as men. In 2011, 3.3 million
3 men (29.6 per 1,000 population) had a diagnosis of chronic
4 bronchitis compared to 6.8 million women (56.7 per 1,000
5 population); and

6 WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that
7 impacts an estimated 24 million Americans each year, including
8 an estimated 1.6 million residents of California who suffer directly
9 from the disease; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2010, the national annual cost for COPD was
11 estimated to be \$49.9 billion, including \$29.5 billion in direct
12 health care expenditures; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2006, the Office of Statewide Health Planning
14 and Development reported that hospitalizations associated with
15 COPD alone amounted to an estimated \$1.34 billion in medical
16 costs within the state; and

17 WHEREAS, Many patients suffering with COPD are not
18 diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of COPD,
19 which often includes a disabling degree of lung dysfunction; and

20 WHEREAS, A diagnostic test for COPD, known as spirometry,
21 is available for office use, allowing early diagnosis of COPD; and

22 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and management of COPD can
23 effectively reduce the overall financial burden of this illness on
24 publicly funded health care programs, including Medi-Cal; and

25 WHEREAS, Achieving early diagnosis and proper management
26 of COPD among California's diverse populations, within the
27 Medi-Cal program as well as other publicly funded health care
28 programs, requires overcoming cultural, language, and literacy
29 challenges; and

30 WHEREAS, Proper management of COPD can lead to an
31 improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for patients who
32 receive publicly funded benefits; and

33 WHEREAS, The "Healthy People 2020" project of the Centers
34 for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of
35 Health concludes that, while primary care physicians are in a key
36 position to provide optimal care to patients with COPD and to
37 provide counseling during clinical or health center visits, primary
38 care physicians need to be trained in the latest methods for
39 diagnosing and treating the disease; and

1 WHEREAS, The California COPD Coalition has developed a
2 comprehensive plan to address COPD in the state, entitled the
3 “Strategic Plan to Address COPD in California,” which outlines
4 six goal areas, including all of the following: prevention, quality
5 of care, public health infrastructure and advocacy, surveillance,
6 research, and public education awareness; now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
8 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature encourages the State
9 Department of Health Care Services, the State Department of
10 Public Health, and other state entities, whenever possible, to partner
11 with COPD stakeholders to improve education in California
12 regarding COPD in the course of implementing the statewide
13 strategic plan; and be it further

14 *Resolved,* That the Legislature designates November 2015 as
15 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in
16 California. The Legislature encourages public officials and the
17 citizens of California to increase awareness about the symptoms
18 of, and the methods of preventing, COPD; and be it further

19 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
20 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.